

# Children's Matinees Are Finally Gaining Some Needed Help

## Catholic Press Features

New York—The movement to make more children's movies available for Saturday and Sunday theater matinees has gotten perhaps its biggest push to date with the entrance of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer into the field.

MGM, starting this Fall, is making available for weekend showings seven films: The Wizard of Oz, Jumbo, Tom Thumb, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Flipper, The Phantom Tollbooth and The Bushaby.

The last two are new films, but the other five are long-time children's favorites that MGM is re-releasing to help fill a void that many parents and church groups have steadily complained about since the advent of "adult" films.

MGM is also planning to later re-release such films as The Yearling, The Gypsy Colt, The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm, Treasure Island, Kim, Clarence the Cross-

Eyed Lion and the entire Lassie and Tarzan film series.

Meanwhile, Children's Movie of the Month—a project that began last Fall—has announced that its series of children's films will open again this Fall in 35 cities, as compared to just two cities (New York and Boston) at CMM's birth a year ago.

CMM works in cooperation with various local department stores to co-sponsor children's matinee showings of eight movies spread over eight months.

The films, all older features that did well in the past with young audiences, are:

The Boy and the Laughing Dog, Smiley, The Son of Robin Hood, Gay Purr-ee, The Bluebird, The Nutcracker, The Incredible Mr. Limpet and Lad, a Dog.

In addition, the latest major announcement to create new films for children (in Los An-

geles, a former cowboy star named Don Barry is attempting to collect funds to produce children's matinee films) has come from Mattel, Inc., the leading toy maker, and Robert Radnitz, the leading maker of children's films today.

Mattel and Radnitz have formed Radnitz-Mattel Productions, which plans to produce three children's films a year, each bankrolled at a million dollars.

Included in the new firm's plans is the making of Where the Lilies Bloom, a runner-up for the American Library Association's Newberry Medal as a contribution to children's literature.

The story is about children in Appalachia's poverty region who lose their parents but try to stay together as a family unit. Several of Radnitz' previous films—such as Island of the Blue Dolphins and And Now, Miguel—have been based



Walter Brennan and Brandon de Wilde in a scene from *The Boy and the Laughing Dog*, one of the children's films being made available for theater matinees.

on Newberry Medal winners or runners-up.

Radnitz, who this past Winter received special citation from both the Catholic and Protestant national film offices for his films, is currently filming *The Little Ark*, a story about a little boy's courage during a flood.

Radnitz-Mattel Productions is also planning to produce high-

quality programming for television, where Mattel is a regular sponsor on current Saturday morning children's shows.

Commented Mrs. Ruth Handler, president of Mattel:

"We will make good children's programs happen on TV even if we have to produce them ourselves."

## Pornography Unit, Critics Reach Compromise

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—An out-of-court settlement has been reached between the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography and one of its members over the matter of issuing a dissenting report.

The agreement was reached between William B. Lockhart, chairman of the commission, and Charles H. Keating Jr., a Cincinnati lawyer who is President Nixon's sole appointee to the commission.

Keating announced that he would drop his complaint in federal district court here which demanded that the commission's final report be withheld until he was given time to write a comprehensive dissent.

The lawyer has been a leading critic of the commission's reported findings which will be presented to the President, Congress, and the public on Sept. 30.

The agreement, which is con-

sidered a compromise by a spokesman for the commission, will allow Keating to make a dissenting report which must be ready at the end of September. It was also stipulated that the Cincinnati attorney would receive final copies of the overall report, four reports from subordinate panels, and 10 volumes of research to assist him in preparing his dissent.

In his complaint, he had claimed that he needed 30 to 45 days to study these materials before writing his report. He settled for the 15 days.

Keating also stated in his complaint that he had been limited by the commission to a dissent only 150 pages in length. The report he will file by Sept. 30 will be 216 pages long and by Nov. 1 he may submit an additional 300 pages of technical reports.

Five others on the 18-member commission share Keating's view.

## ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN FOLIAGE REPORT

By State Dept. of Commerce

Ausable Chasm — just a hint of color.

Hamilton County—about 10% of trees have changed.

Lake Placid — just beginning.

Tupper Lake — 5% color.

Warren County — still green with occasional patches of red and yellow.

Whiteface Mountain — scattered trees beginning to turn.

## CATSKILLS

Belleayre Mountain — 10% yellow and red, still predominantly green.

Sullivan County — green predominates, 5% change.

## FINGER LAKES

Penn Yan — slight change. Letchworth State Park — isolated trees only.

## HUDSON VALLEY

Tarrytown—color still green.

## ST. LAWRENCE

Alexandria Bay — no change.

## COURIER / Entertainment

### As I See It

## Don Knotts Needs Help

By Pat Costa



Remember when Don Knotts used to play deputy Barney Fife to Andy Griffith's Sheriff Taylor?

I do because I thought he was probably the funniest man on television in that role.

Don Knotts may still be the funniest man in television—if there are any of the old Andy Griffith shows in rerun.

But Don Knotts in the "Don Knotts Show", seen on NBC (Channel 8) at 7:30 Tuesday nights, is a star in great need of a writer.

In the first half of his premiere show (I didn't wait around to see the second half) Knotts messed around the stage with Anthony Newley and Edyie Gorme. I use the term "messed around" advisedly for the show appeared to have been put together with little or no thought to formal structure.

I realize that this was not the case—that somebody was obviously trying for rigid disorganization. It came off very badly.

Is Knotts only as good as his material? Probably, but this is no condemnation of the actor when one takes into consideration the legion of brilliant entertainers about whom the same can be said.

years sooner than our expected 70 years. But we have been rescued from a society in which man breathed clean air for only 40 years.

We're not saying we should feel satisfied with our lousy sixty years of foul breathing. No indeed. Perhaps 40 years of clean air was better. After all, we can't measure life in terms of quantity or length.

But the fact is that today we have both advantages and problems that were unthought of in the past. If we don't want to be too shortsighted in our dreams, we've got to recognize the advantages even as we point out and eliminate the difficulties.

We've always got to remember that we'll never be completely happy with what we have. But that's not to say we should not dream. As Henry David Thoreau said, "Dreams are the touchstones of our characters."

Our world today is a hole in the ground compared with what it could be. With its images, El Condor Pasa tries to think ahead to a time when man is no longer "tied up to the ground." May we all be able to see that dream come true, and be able to honestly recognize and cope with the new problems that our heaven brings.

(Catholic Press Features)

## Condor Pasa: a Song of Wishes

### BY THE MISSION SINGERS

Simon and Garfunkel's El Condor Pasa is a modern arrangement of an 18th Century Peruvian folk melody. It's a beautiful song about wishes: "Away, I'd rather sail away like a swan that's here and gone."

Perhaps the key line in El Condor Pasa is this one: "I'd rather be a forest than a street. Yes I would." The line is talking about more than just conservation. It's a whole outlook on life.

As a philosophy, it has its good points. Life in a forest

is a lot safer than life in a jungle — a street jungle. It's true: nobody, black or white, is safe on the streets today.

Some of us were in Philadelphia recently (after several policemen were shot) and the whole city was in a state of fearful, terrorful seige. Travel in and to the city was being avoided, people were not putting their heads out their doors, policemen were riding four and five in a car.

And it's true too that this kind of terror is not merely the result of sick maniacs who shoot anyone with a badge. Many experts admit that our streets, our cities, our countries are simply too crowded for true human living. While we'll always have to ruthlessly weed out the violent and harmful people, we should also understand that our kind of street living breeds violence. We must change that way of living.

Our modern civilization, as savage as it is, has solved many of the problems of previous societies. So, our Western culture has given us the slums, but has rescued us from many of the diseases that were more violent than any present-day riot.

Our Western civilization has given us air which is so dirty that we will probably die ten

## THE MUSIC BAG

### MISSION MUSIC

I'd rather be a sparrow than a snail.  
Yes I would.  
If I could,  
I surely would.

I'd rather be a hammer than a nail.  
Yes I would.  
If I could,  
I surely would.

Away, I'd rather sail away  
Like a swan that's here and gone.  
A man gets tied up to the ground.  
He gives the world its saddest sound.  
Its saddest sound.

I'd rather be a forest than a street.  
Yes I would.  
If I could,  
I surely would.

I'd rather feel the earth beneath my feet.  
Yes I would.  
If I could,  
I surely would.

(Published by Charing Cross Music)

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